

particular character area of the image screen corresponding to the particular partitioned input block according to the position information input to the pointing device 12 (column 8, lines 54-58). Further, the Examiner asserts in the Office Action that Matsui discloses display control unit 15 displaying a cursor on an image screen 18 indicated by the coordinate input unit 12. Also, in column 11, lines 30-33, Matsui discloses the particular partitioned display block corresponding to the coordinates (X1, Y1) input by the user can be designated by the pointing character. The pointing character in Matsui is a cursor shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

Yano discloses a touch panel device having an operation mode selecting unit SW1-SW8, a first operation mode (SW1) with a first function (11), a second operation mode (SW1) with a second function of displaying a marker M (xo, yo). That is, the first operation mode (SW1) and the second operation mode (SW2) correspond to a navigation function and a traffic information function, respectively. Accordingly, the Examiner appears to interpret two or more operation modes to touch operations as different functions like the navigation function and the traffic information function. Moreover, Yano discloses a processing function key and the touch switch input on the second operation mode (see Figs. 1, 4, and 5).

In contrast, in the present invention, two or more operation modes to a touch operation are provided to NAVI switch (SW1). In an operation mode selecting unit recited in claim 1, any one of two or more operation modes is selected with respect to the touch operation.

Each of claims 1, 5, and 15 of the present application recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "wherein a first mode is settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function".

Claims 9 and 20 of the present application recite (using the recitation of claim 9 as an example) "an operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of a first operation mode for providing a first function of executing a normal process corresponding to the operator's input operation using said pointing device, and a second operation mode for providing a second function of executing a process different from the first operation mode, wherein said display control unit executes a process of displaying the marker on the basis of the selection of the

second operation mode".

Claims 16 and 17 recite (using the recitation of claim 16 as an example) "detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit; displaying a marker in a coordinate position on said display device, which corresponds to a position of the detected touch on said operation screen unit; and providing a function indicated by the marker on said display device".

Also in the present invention, an operation mode selecting unit selects any one of a first operation mode in which a marker is not displayed, and a second operation mode in which the marker is displayed.

Even if Matsui and Yano are combined, the combination does not disclose or suggest the operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of a first operation mode in which a marker is not displayed, and a second operation mode in which the marker is displayed.

The Examiner also asserts in the Office Action that Yano inherently includes a storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions provided by a CPU 7. The Examiner is respectfully requested to support the Examiner's assertions of inherence by affidavit or withdraw same.

Claims 18 and 19 recite (using the recitation of claim 18 as an example) "wherein the operation modes include: a first mode settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation of the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function."

The foregoing dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 2 recites "the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function."

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: June 26, 2003

By: 
Gene M. Garner, II
Registration No. 34,172

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 10 and 21.

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system comprising:
an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on a surface thereof;
a first display control unit controlling display of the information on said operation screen unit; and
an operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of two or more operation modes with respect to the touch operation,
[wherein a first operation mode provides the touch operation on said operation screen unit with a first function corresponding to the touch operation, and
a second operation mode provides the touch operation on said operation screen unit, instead of providing the first function corresponding to the touch operation, or together with providing the first function, with a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position]
wherein a first mode is settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and
a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit,
wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,
said first display control unit controls the display of the information on said display

device and the display of the information on said operation screen unit, and

[the second operation mode provides the touch operation on said operation screen unit, instead of providing the first function corresponding to the touch operation, or together with providing the first function, with a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation]

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 2, wherein said first display control unit executes the control so that the information is exclusively displayed on any one of said display device and said operation screen unit[, and

the second operation mode provides the touch operation on said operation screen unit, instead of providing the first function corresponding to the touch operation, or together with providing the first function, with a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation].

4. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim [2] 1, further comprising:

[a second display control unit,

wherein said first display control unit controls display of a first item of information on said operation screen unit,

said second display control unit controls display of a second item of information on said display device, and

the second operation mode provides the touch operation on said operation screen unit, instead of providing the first function corresponding to the touch operation, or together with 5 providing the first function, with a second function of displaying a marker for indicating

a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation]

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit, and

a second display control unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,

said first display control unit controls display of a first item of information on said operation screen unit,

said second display control unit controls display of a second item of information on said display device, and

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system comprising:
an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on a surface thereof;

a first display control unit controlling display of the information on said operation screen unit; and

a control unit distinguishing between operation modes on said operation screen unit,
[wherein a touch operation in a first mode on said operation screen unit is provided with a first function corresponding to this touch operation, and

a touch operation in a second mode on said operation screen unit is provided with, instead of providing the first function, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position.]

wherein a first mode is settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position if the touch operation is detected on said

operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,

said first display control unit controls the display of the information on said display device and the display of the information on said operation screen unit, and

[the touch operation, in the second mode on said operation screen unit is provided with, instead of providing the first function, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation]

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 6, wherein said first display control unit executes the control so that the information is exclusively displayed on any one of said display device or said operation screen unit[, and

the touch operation in the second mode on said operation screen unit is provided with, instead of providing the first function, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation].

8. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim [6] 5, further comprising:

[a second display control unit,

wherein said first display control unit controls display of a first item of information on said operation screen unit,

said second display control unit controls display of a second item of information on said display device, and

the touch operation in the second mode on said operation screen unit is provided with, instead of providing the first function, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation]

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit, and

a second display control unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,

said first display control unit controls display of a first item of information on said operation screen unit,

said second display control unit controls display of a second item of information on said display device, and

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system, to which a display unit displaying information and a pointing device for indicating coordinates on said display unit are connectable, said system comprising:

a detection unit detecting an operator's input operation of indicating the coordinates by use of said pointing device; and

a display control unit displaying a marker for showing the respective coordinates on said display unit indicated by the input operation,

an operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of a first operation mode for providing a first function of executing a normal process corresponding to the operator's input operation using said pointing device, and a second operation mode for providing a second function of executing a process different from the first operation mode,

wherein said display control unit executes a process of displaying the marker on the basis of the selection of the second operation mode.

10. (CANCELLED).

15 (ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling an information processing system, to which a display device is connected, having an operation screen unit used for displaying information and for providing a first function based on a touch operation on its surface, said method comprising, when information having the same content is displayed on said display device and on said operation screen unit, [steps] functions of:

detecting a touch operation on said operation screen unit; and
providing, instead of providing the first function based on the touch operation, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker in a display position, corresponding to the detected touch position, on said display device.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling an information processing system, to which a display device is connected, having an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on its surface, said method comprising, when no information is displayed on said operation screen unit, [steps] functions of:

detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit;
displaying a marker in a coordinate position on said display device, which corresponds to a position of the detected touch on said operation screen unit; and
providing a function indicated by the marker on said display device.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling an information processing system,

to which a display device is connected, having an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on its surface, said method comprising, when different items of information are displayed on said display device and said operation screen unit, [steps] functions of:

- detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit;
- displaying a marker in a coordinate position on said display device, which corresponds to a position of the detected touch on said operation screen unit; and
- providing a function indicated by the marker.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method [steps] for processing in response to user instruction using an operation screen unit, the method [steps] comprising:

- setting an information processing system including an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on its surface to any one of two or more operation modes[.]; and

- displaying the information on at least one of said operation screen unit and other display device connected to the information processing system[.];

- wherein the operation modes include:

- a first mode settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

- a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation of the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

- [providing the touch operation on said operation screen unit with a first function corresponding to the touch operation in a first operation mode; and

- providing, in a second operation mode, the touch operation on said operation screen unit, instead of providing the first function corresponding to this touch operation, or together with providing the first function, with a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection

of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation.]

19. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method [steps] for processing in response to user instruction using an operation screen unit, the method [steps] comprising:

displaying information on at least one of an operation screen unit capable of displaying the information and detecting a touch operation on its surface and other display device connected to the computer;

detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit;

distinguishing between operation modes on said operation screen unit;

wherein the operation modes include:

a first mode settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

[providing the operation in a first mode on said operation screen unit with a first function corresponding to the first mode operation; and

providing the operation in a second mode on said operation screen unit, instead of providing the first function, or together with providing the first function, with a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation.]

20. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, to which a display unit can be connected, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method [steps] for processing in response to user instruction using the display unit, the method [steps] comprising:

detecting an operator's input operation of indicating the coordinates on a display unit by use of a pointing device being connected to the computer; [and]

displaying a marker for showing the respective coordinates on said display unit indicated by the input operation;

selecting any one of a first operation mode for providing a first function of executing a normal process corresponding to the operator's input operation using said pointing device, and a second operation mode for providing a second function of executing a process different from the first operation mode; and

displaying the marker on the basis of the selection of the second operation mode.

21. (CANCEL)

22. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program according to claim 20, of instructions executable by the machine, the method [steps] further comprising:

erasing the marker after the marker has been displayed for a predetermined time.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program according to claim 22, of instructions executable by the machine, the method [steps] further comprising:

calculating an elapse time till a posterior coordinate indication since an anterior coordinate indication; and displaying the marker at the coordinates indicated

posteriorly after erasing the marker displayed by the anterior coordinate indication if the elapse time is longer than the predetermined time.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program according to claim 20, of instructions executable by the machine, the method [steps] further comprising:

controlling the display of the information on at least one of said display unit provided on said computer and other display device, connected to said computer, on which display coordinates corresponding to the coordinates on said display unit are set; and

displaying the marker on at least one of said display unit and said other display device

on which the information is being displayed.